

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A hydraulic tensioner includes a housing with a piston bore. A hollow piston with rack teeth on an outer circumference is inserted slidably in the piston bore, forming a fluid chamber. A piston spring urges the piston to extend. A retraction blocking member such as a pawl is provided in a retraction blocking member opening. The pawl has teeth engageable with the piston rack teeth, and a pawl spring that urges the teeth of the pawl member to engage the rack teeth. The width of the pawl member is greater than the width of the tip portion of the rack teeth of the piston. In one embodiment, a pawl retainer is mounted at a retainer hole and houses the pawl. In this embodiment, the width of the axial portion of the pawl retainer is greater than the width of the tip portion of the rack teeth of the piston.